

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 032977

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:L. MATTESON

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:L. MATTESON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 032977

TOSEC 165

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECDEF TO CINCPAC 0122204Z ACTION CINCPAC
HONOLULU HI, CINCPAC PA LNO BANGKOK, INFO PHNOM PENH
BANGKOK CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB, USSAG NKP THAILAND,
COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK, CHMEDTC PHOM PENH, 634CSG UTAPAC
RTNAF THAILAND, MAC SCOTT AFB, SECSTATE DATED 12 FEB 75
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 1248

FROM: OASD:PA

SUBJ: PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL AIRLIFT CONTRACT FOR
CAMBODIA

1. FOLLOWING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WAS POSTED FOR CORRESPONDENTS AT
1430 EST 12 FEB 75, AND IS FURNISHED FOR YOUR INFORMATION. APPROVED
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED FOR RESPONSE TO QUERY ONLY.
QUERIES WHICH GO BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THESE SHOULD BE FORWARDED THRU
CHANNELS TO OASD:PA FOR RESPONSE: QUOTE. THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
HAS APPROVED MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT, ON A TEMPORARY BASIS, SUPPLE-
MENTAL COMMERCIAL CARGO AIRLIFT FOR CAMBODIA WHICH WILL AUGMENT
BIRD AIR EFFORTS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUPPLEMENTAL, ENTIRELY
COMMERCIAL, AIRLIFT IS TO PROVIDE AS AN INTERIM MEASURE THE MOST
VITALLY NEEDED SUPPLIES FOR CAMBODIA UNTIL THE BIRD AIR EXPANSION
LEVELS HAVE BEEN REACHED. THE ADDED COST OF 1.2 MILLION DOLLARS
FOR THE COMMERCIAL AUGMENTATION WILL BE CHARGED TO THE MILITARY
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND IS WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED MAP CEILING FOR
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CAMBODIA. FURTHER DETAILS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL BIDS HAVE

BEEN RECEIVED FROM COMMERCIAL CARRIERS. UNQUOTE.

Q.1. WILL THESE BE U.S. FLAG CARRIERS?

A.1. YES.

Q.2. HOW LONG WILL THE SUPPLEMENTAL COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT BE NEEDED?

A.2. APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS, WITH PROVISIONS FOR EXTENSION IF NECESSARY.

Q.3. WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST?

A.3. \$1.2 MILLION HAS BEEN GRANTED; THIS INCLUDES GROUND HANDLING SUPPORT.

Q.4. WILL THESE PLANES STAGE FROM THAILAND?

A.4. THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOT YET FIRM.

Q.5. WHAT WILL THEY BE CARRYING?

A.5. AMMUNITION.

Q.6. WHAT IS THE REQUIREMENT THESE COMMERCIAL PLANES ARE TO FULFILL?

A.6. NUMBER OF DAILY FLIGHTS HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.

Q.7. HOW MUCH IS BIRD AIR SUPPOSED TO DELIVER UNDER THE ORIGINAL SEP 74 CONTRACT AND THE FEB 75 CONTRACT MODIFICATION?

A.7. AS PREVIOUSLY STATED, UP TO 20 FLIGHTS A DAY.

Q.8. WHY COULDN'T BIRD AIR HANDLE THIS ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT?

A.8. BIRD AIR COULD NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT AIR CREWS RAPIDLY ENOUGH TO MEET THIS IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT.

Q.9. WHO PAYS FOR THIS CONTRACT?

A.9. IT WILL BE CHARGED TO THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Q.10. WHAT KIND OF AIRCRAFT WILL BE USED?

A.10. WE WON'T KNOW THIS UNTIL BIDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM COMMERCIAL CARRIERS AND A CONTRACT LET.

Q.11. WHO IS HANDLING THE CONTRACT ARRANGEMENTS?

A.11. THE U.S. AIR FORCE.

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UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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